

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An adapter for drawing water from a bottled water dispenser having an upper rim surrounding an opening, comprising:

5 a. a bottle support ring, said ring being sized and configured to rest over the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser; and,

 b. a water supply line, said line passing transversely through said support ring, defining a feed portion extending into the bottled water dispenser and a delivery portion extending outside the bottled water dispenser.

10 2. An adapter as in claim 1 in which said ring is made from a resilient material, sufficiently strong to support the weight of a bottle of water without substantially deforming, and in which said water supply line is made from plastic tubing.

15 3. An adapter for drawing water from a bottled water dispenser having an upper rim surrounding an opening, and an upended bottle of water having a neck inserted in the opening of the water dispenser, comprising:

 a. support means for maintaining a bottle of water in spaced relation above the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser, said support means further providing a seal between a shoulder of the bottle and the upper rim of the bottled water dispenser; and,

b. a water supply line passing transversely through said support means, said water supply line having a feed portion extending into the bottled water dispenser and a delivery portion extending outside the bottled water dispenser.

4. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

5 a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within said accessory, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line;

10 b. a reservoir of bottled water located outside the refrigerator; and,

 c. a water supply line extending between said reservoir of water and said hydraulic input of said water pump, said water supply line having a feed portion immersed in said reservoir and a delivery portion extending outside said reservoir to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

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5. An apparatus as in claim 4 in which said water utilization accessory is an automatic ice maker.

6. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing an

electrical output on demand, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line;

5 b. a reservoir of bottled water located outside the refrigerator; and,

 c. a water supply line extending between said reservoir of water and said hydraulic input of said water pump, said water supply line having a feed portion immersed in said reservoir and a delivery portion extending outside said reservoir to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

7. An apparatus as in claim 6 in which said water utilization accessory is a water chiller.

10 8. An apparatus for providing bottled water to a refrigerator, comprising:

 a. a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, said accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within said accessory, and a water pump responsive to said electrical output of said control circuit, said pump further having a hydraulic input and a hydraulic output, said hydraulic output being connected to said water recharge line; and,

15 b. bottled water containment means located outside the refrigerator, said containment means including a water supply line having a feed portion immersed in the contained bottled water and a delivery portion extending outside the containment means, said delivery portion being interconnected to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

20 9. An apparatus as in claim 8 in which said bottle water containment means comprises a bottled

water dispenser, said dispenser including an upper rim surrounding an opening, an adapter including a bottle support ring, said bottle support ring having a lower side installed over said upper rim, said bottle support ring further having an upper side, and said water supply line passing transversely through said bottle support ring.

5 10. An apparatus as in claim 9 in which said ring is made from a resilient material, sufficiently strong to support the weight of a bottle of water without substantially deforming, and in which said water supply line is made from plastic tubing.

11. A method for modifying a refrigerator having a water utilization accessory inside the refrigerator, the accessory having a water delivery system with a water recharge line, an electrical control circuit providing an electrical output for a predetermined period of time in response to a detected deficiency of water within the accessory, and a solenoid valve responsive to the electrical output of the control circuit, the solenoid valve further having an inlet connected to a pressurized source of water and an outlet connected to the water recharge line, comprising the steps of:

- 15 a. disconnecting the electrical control circuit from the solenoid valve;
- b. disconnecting the inlet of the solenoid valve from the pressurized source of water;
- c. disconnecting the outlet of the solenoid valve from the water recharge line;
- d. removing the solenoid valve from the refrigerator;
- e. installing a water pump in the refrigerator in proximity to the electrical control circuit and the water recharge line, said water pump having an electrical input, a hydraulic input, and a hydraulic output;

f. connecting the electrical control circuit to said electrical input of said water pump;

and,

g. connecting the water recharge line to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

12. A method as in claim 11 in which said water utilization accessory is an ice maker.

5 13. A method as in claim 11 in which said water utilization accessory is a water chiller.

14. A method as in claim 11 further including the step of connecting a water supply line in hydraulic communication with a reservoir of bottled water to said hydraulic input of said water pump.

10 15. A method as in claim 11 further including the step of installing a pump mounting bracket in the

refrigerator at a location in proximity to the electrical control circuit and the water recharge line, after

the solenoid valve is removed.

16. A method as in claim 11 in which the refrigerator includes two water utilization accessories, the

first of which is an ice maker, and the second of which is a water chiller.